

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are now pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended and Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 17-19 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sharood et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,453,687). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2, 17-19, and 22, dependent therefrom, are in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-16 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharood et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,453,687). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 is believed to be in a condition for allowance in light of the foregoing remarks. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 17-19, and 22, dependent from Claim 1, are similarly in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 3-7, 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include allowable subject matter from Claim 5 and therefore respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is now in a condition for allowance.

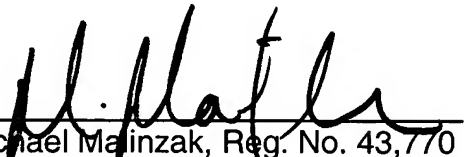
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Michael Malinzak, Reg. No. 43,770

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MM:ca